

NATION:**Tragedy: Rowdy bus, slow light, speeding train, Page 10****GOOD EVENING**

Monday, October 30, 1995

SPORTS:**Cowboys bounce back to clip Falcons, Page 7**

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Low tonight in mid 50s, high tomorrow in upper 70s. See Page 2 for weather details.

AREA

PAMPA — As the Pampa United Way 1995 campaign nears its last check-in meeting, Executive Administrator Katrina Bigham encouraged volunteers to get out this week and work their pledge cards.

The final check-in will be at 5 p.m. Thursday in the M.K. Brown Room at the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Special entertainment for the final check-in will be The Put-Ons, a singing group from Central Baptist Church. Frosted Cokes will be served, and door prizes will be awarded.

Sponsors for the last check-in are Meals on Wheels, Pastoral Counseling Center, Gray County Child Protective Services and Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority.

After last week's check-in, the fund-raising total was \$209,394.53, or 68 percent of the \$306,000 goal.

POST — Santa will arrive here for Old Mill Trade Days Saturday, Nov. 4, in a covered wagon.

The Nov. 3-5 Old Mill Trade Days will feature the country-western sounds of Jackie Fox on Saturday and the gospel music of Jackie Stone on Sunday along with The Lighthouse Five, The Tylers and Sabrina Sherrod.

Old Mill Trade Days in the Postex plant here offers some 500 vendors, according to Wesley Burnett, spokesman for the monthly event.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — An earthquake jolted Mexico City today but there were no signs of panic or immediate indications of damage in the capital.

The quake began at 8:50 a.m. and lasted about 30 seconds. Mexican seismologists said the epicenter was just off the Pacific Coast between the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero. The official Notimex news agency said Oaxaca had no reports of damage.

They put the quake's intensity at magnitude 5.9; the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said it was 5.0.

It was the fourth quake to strike Mexico since mid-September.

AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket bought in San Antonio correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth \$10 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 1, 14, 15, 38, 41 and 42.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Wednesday night's game will be \$4 million.

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High court to review bias in cocaine case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today waded into a politically sensitive dispute over alleged racial bias and selective prosecution in crack-cocaine cases.

The justices said they will review rulings that threw out federal indictments against five men who had been charged with trafficking in crack in the Los Angeles area.

The men contended that they were chosen for federal prosecution because they are black, and federal prosecutors initially refused to rebut the allegations.

The issue in the nation's highest court is not whether racially biased prosecution took place, but whether lower courts wrongly required the federal government to combat the selective-prosecution allegations.

In other action today, the Supreme Court:

— Made it harder to uphold a death sentence if errors occurred during the sentencing and ordered a new review of a Virginia death row inmate's case.

— Refused to reinstate a Georgia law that allowed grandparents to win court-ordered visitation with their grandchildren over objections from the child's parents.

— Left intact the conviction of a Mexican businessman sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1985 kidnap, torture and murder of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The five men in the selective prosecution case — Christopher Armstrong, Aaron Hampton, Freddie Mack, Shelton Martin and Robert Rozelle — were charged with participating in the distribution of cocaine base, commonly called crack, in 1992.

The charges stemmed from a joint investigation by Inglewood, Calif., police and federal drug agents.

The decision to charge the five men with federal, rather than state, crimes was significant. Federal law imposes a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of life for those convicted of selling more than 50 grams of

crack. Under California law, however, the sentence for that crime ranges from three to five years.

To support their selective-prosecution claim, the five defendants pointed to a study of every crack prosecution closed by the local federal public defender's office in 1991. In all 24 such cases, the defendants had been black.

A federal judge granted the defendants' "discovery" request and ordered prosecutors to provide further racial data and explain how they chose which crack cases to pursue in federal court.

The government chose not to comply with that order, and instead appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appeals court upheld the judge's order and subsequent dismissal of the indictments against the five men.

The 9th Circuit court ruled that the defendants had presented facts "which establish a colorable basis to believe that the government has engaged in selective prosecution."

TEC specialist to discuss Project RIO

Joan Goodwin, information specialist with the Texas Employment Commission, will be in Pampa Nov. 7-8 to speak at the Rufe Jordan Unit about the Project RIO program.

Project RIO (Re-Integration for Offenders) is a multi-agency initiative to successfully reintegrate offenders into the community.

The Project RIO program coordinates services provided by various state agencies, including the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division, Pardons and Paroles Division and the Texas Employment Commission.

According to Chris Aylett, job service representative with the TEC office in Borger, statistics prove an ex-offender who secures employment is three times as likely to remain out of jail. Presently it costs \$45 per day per inmate for confinement, more than \$16,000 a year.

Project RIO has served more than 125,000 ex-offenders with a 70 percent entered employment rate since it began in 1985.

Aylett said the Project RIO program offers bonding assistance to help eliminate risks of hiring ex-offenders, plus possi-

bly offering a tax incentive to interested employers. For further information, contact the local Project RIO personnel at the nearest TEC office.

Goodwin was involved with drugs and crime for about 20 years prior to being arrested. She served 18 months in prison and was released in October 1985. After her release, she entered New Directions, a community-based correctional halfway house facility in Houston.

Since 1985, she has become a licensed chemical dependency counselor and a noted public speaker. Goodwin travels throughout the state talking to prisoners and the public, stressing the need for education and job training for inmates.

Goodwin has been involved with United Way and Churchwomen United and was an active member of the American Mothers' Association. She is a participant in 12-Step support groups in the community and taught 12-Step classes to inmates at the Harris County Jail in Houston. She also is a member of the Texas Youth Commission Career and Technology Education Advisory Committee. She

began her work with Project RIO in September 1992.

She believes Project RIO is an effective method for reducing repeat offender crime.

"The sooner the parolee goes to work, the greater the chance for successful reintegration into the community," Goodwin said. "With Project RIO, everybody wins."

State officials say employment is a key factor in reducing recidivism, and Project RIO is one of the bright spots addressing this critical area.

Pilot programs began in Houston and Dallas in 1985, and since then full service offices have been added in Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, Fort Worth and Beaumont.

In addition to the full-service sites, Project RIO has expanded to a statewide program offering direct placement and support services in more than 80 Texas cities.

Aylett noted that studies by the Pardons and Paroles Division indicate savings to the state of more than \$16.5 million per year in potential incarceration costs.

For more information on Project RIO, call 1-800-453-8140.

Stood up for the prom



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Being stood up on prom night can drive anyone to the edge as Amy Rainey, who played the part of an evil girl, can attest to. Rainey was part of the National Guard Amory Spook House and Trick or Treat held Saturday evening. Proceeds from the house will go towards the Family Support Group's Christmas fund to help needy families during the holidays.

Officials offer safety tips for a happy Halloween

Ghosts, ghouls and goblins will hit the streets tomorrow night as Pampa residents celebrate Halloween.

Before the festivities begin, though, Cpl. Donny Brown of the Pampa Police Department has tips to keep the holiday safe.

The biggest safety problem in Pampa, Brown said, is parents driving without paying attention.

Other tips include:

- Never travel alone. Have a parent, older brother or sister go with you.

- Use a flashlight to let drivers see you and to see where you are going.

- Wear reflective or bright-colored clothing so drivers can see you.

- Always walk on sidewalks, or as near to the curb as possible if there is no sidewalk.

- Observe all safety rules when crossing the street. Look both ways before crossing. Cross at intersections. Do not go between parked vehicles.

- Do not wear masks that are difficult for you to see out of.
- Do not wear clothing that will cause you to trip.

- Trick or treat only in your neighborhood and on well-lighted streets.

- Never take candy from

someone you don't know.

- Let your parents inspect your candy before eating it.

- Throw away any candy or food that is not wrapped by the candy company.

- If there are any suspicious treats, notify the police.

Tips from Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Clinic include:

- Remove obstacles in the yard, such as hoses, sprinklers, lawn furniture and potted plants.

- Keep lighted jack-o'-lanterns or candles away from the steps or the front door.

- Elaborate head-dresses and rubber masks can block a child's vision. A good substitute is face painting.

Scott and White officials also warn of the potential of Halloween poisonings, saying that's why parents should emphasize to their children not to eat any treats before reaching home.

Once home, parents should carefully inspect all treats.

"Throw away any candy that has a torn or open wrapper or that looks as if it has been tampered with. It's better to be safe than sorry," said Doug Borys, director of the Central Texas Poison Center.

See HALLOWEEN, Page 2

Crafts fair exhibitor



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Doris Robbins of Pampa and her husband were among the craft exhibitors at the Gray County FCE Crafts Fair/Flea Market this weekend at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion at Recreation Park. Mrs. Robbins makes stuffed bears, backpack purses and other things made from fabric while her husband makes jewelry.

City's Halloween Parade and Party set for Tuesday

The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be hosting its annual Halloween Parade and Party on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Due to the time change and early darkness, the parade will begin at 5 p.m. from the south lawn of the Lovett Memorial Library. The parade will end at the library auditorium (north end), where the party will be held.

There will be a costume contest with categories including ugliest, prettiest, spookiest, funniest and most original.

Cartoons will be shown, and Ziggy the Clown will be making balloon characters while the judges determine the contest

winner. Bags full of treats will be handed out to all children that attend. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each category in the costume contest.

The event is open to the public at no cost, and parents are invited to attend with their children.

Sponsors for the party include Action Realty, Albertsons, Alco Discount Store, FirstBank Southwest, Boatmen's First, Gray County American Red Cross, National Bank of Commerce, Frank's Food Store, Wal-Mart and the City of Pampa's Police and Fire Departments.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at 669-5770.

Business owners divided on laws regulating Mexican trucking

McALLEN (AP) — Laws requiring Mexican companies to buy Texas liability insurance and registration stickers and provide worker's compensation for their drivers have South Texas business owners are divided.

Some applauded the new laws passed by the 1995 Texas Legislature as steps toward equity and enhanced highway safety.

Others, though, call them revenue-generating regulations for the state. Customs brokers, packing shed owners and other business people say the changes will put them out of business or force them to move to Arizona, where the rules are less strict.

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales supports the new legislation, saying Mexico permits its trucks to carry much more weight than the United States allows.

"Mexico also has lower safety standards for its trucks and drivers," he said. "Just one unfortunate accident between an overweight, unsafe Mexican truck and a Texas school bus or a family car could escalate into an international tragedy. Besides the lives jeopardized, the promises of

NAFTA would at least be delayed, if not threatened."

The Texas Department of Public Safety has no statistics on Mexican trucking accidents within Texas.

McAllen Economic Development Corporation president Mike Allen points out that without the Texas insurance requirements, Mexican trucks already will be protected by \$750,000 in federal liability insurance.

Allen said he is tired of hearing how "Mexican trucks are going to run into our little yellow school buses and kill American children."

Ninety percent of Mexican trucks traveling to McAllen cross only to foreign trade zones close to international bridges, then return to Mexico. He said many don't stay in this country more than four hours.

Trucks traveling within a 20-mile border zone should be offered special exemptions, Allen said.

"I have no problem with truckers going to Houston having to comply with the regulations,"

he said. "I just think that the bureaucrats in Austin don't understand our situation."

Specifically, Allen named the authors of the bill — State Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, and Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo — as well as Rep. Renato Cuellar, D-Weslaco, Rep. Roberto Gutierrez, D-Brownsville, and State Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville.

None of those legislators voiced objections to the bill in hearings in Austin. Since then, Truan and Cuellar have defended the laws, while the rest of the Rio Grande Valley delegation has worked to try to repair the damage many of their constituents believe has been done.

Valley legislators are asking the Department of Transportation to postpone implementing the laws until lawmakers have the chance to amend them in the next legislative session.

Many South Texas business owners suspect that Mexico will start charging reciprocal fees for U.S. trucks. Those beliefs are confirmed by Reynosa res-

ident Horacio de Cos, who owns the Mexican trucking company Transportacion de Cos. The owner also sits on the influential nine-member roads and bridges board in Mexico.

"Mexico will retaliate," de Cos said. "If the U.S. implements fees, we will implement fees for your truckers, too."

Not all U.S. truckers want the legislation changed.

Leo Olivarez, owner of Angelo Trucking Company in Edinburg, said Mexican trucks should have to comply with the same regulations as U.S. trucks.

"We have very strict laws that govern us to make sure a truck is safe," he said. "If we don't follow them, we are fined."

"I'd like to get reduced insurance, too. And the Mexican trucks need to be safe."

Transportation Commissioner David Bernsen said he is not sure how he will vote on the regulations, which are due to take effect Dec. 17.

Some senators suggest negotiating compromise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators are speaking of settling their budget disputes without interference from the White House as Congress begins this week to put the finishing touches on the massive GOP proposal to balance the budget by 2002.

"Maybe it might be better for the Republicans in the U.S. Senate to start talking to the Democrats" rather than to President Clinton, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said Sunday.

"Pete, I'm willing to deal," responded Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr., who appeared with Domenici on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

House and Senate negotiators meet this week to iron out differences in their bills, both passed last week, to balance the budget over seven years by shrinking Medicare and Medicaid growth and providing a \$245 billion tax cut.

Clinton has vowed to veto the bill because of education and health care cuts, and the White House and Republican leaders are each blaming the other for refusing to compromise.

Clinton on Saturday accused the Republicans of blackmail in linking an increase in the federal

debt limit to his acceptance of their plan. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., replied that Clinton should "think twice" about a presidential veto.

Domenici suggested that this political acrimony could be avoided with bipartisan talks in the Senate. But his comments and those of other senators on the news program also revealed how far apart the two parties are on the core issues.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said the seven-year timetable for balancing the budget is "not really negotiable" and that Republicans would agree to a temporary lifting of the debt ceiling only if Clinton decides to do more than "just stand back and throw rocks."

Domenici said Clinton could bring many things to the negotiating table but added, "I didn't say anything was negotiable. We worked too hard to get here."

On the Democratic side, Kerrey agreed that Clinton should veto the bill as it stands, and Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said he hoped for a resolution of the dispute, "but not on the basis of what is in this package."

VA says veterans will lose coverage under new plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of veterans could lose their Medicaid coverage and many more face the uncertain prospect of turning to the VA for health care if Republican Medicaid and Medicare reform plans become law, the administration says.

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services, in a report released today, said as many as 172,000 of the 600,000 veterans enrolled in Medicaid could lose their coverage under the House plan to reduce spending levels by \$182 billion through 2002.

Of those, 55,600 are severely disabled, under age 65, not covered by Medicare and do not have priority eligibility for VA care, the report said.

It also concluded that plans to increase premiums and deductibles for Medicare recipients could result in more than 400,000 veterans finding it financially neces-

sary to turn to VA health care. This is an option that is likely to be unavailable as VA programs face their own budget restraints under the GOP plan to balance the budget by 2002, the report said. The VA already limits access to its health care network to those injured while on active duty and the indigent.

"VA will not be able to care for veterans pushed out of other health care programs if it also is suffering from devastating congressional budget cuts," VA Secretary Jesse Brown said. "What this country must avoid is the possibility that men and women who defended this country will fall through the cracks between three shrinking programs," he said.

The report estimated that 64,000 veterans would lose their Medicaid, the federal program for the poor and the disabled, in the five states of California, Florida, New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Pampa United Way agency profile

This article is one in a series of profiles on the agencies and organizations supported by Pampa United Way. This information is being provided by Pampa United Way as part of its 1995 "Paint A Brighter Tomorrow" fund-raising campaign.

Of all the volunteers who provided help for victims of the June 8 tornadoes which battered the Pampa area, The Salvation Army was among the most tireless.

For 14 days following the tornado, The Salvation Army distribution center assisted approximately 2,000 people, using 3,360 hours of service. There were also eight canteens set up to furnish meals for both victims and workers cleaning up in the aftermath of the disaster. The canteens were staffed by 32 volunteers logging 2,150 hours of service.

The Salvation Army has served Pampa for over 65 years. In addition to disaster relief services, the agency provides social services to young people, emergency lodging for those without shelter and holiday cheer for the less fortunate. Rent and utility assistance is available to the needy, as are



(Special photo)

The Salvation Army canteen truck provides refreshments to personnel helping with the cleanup operations after the June 8 tornado, one of the many services provided locally by the organization.



other programs aimed at solving long-term problems. Helping elderly citizens who have been cut off from everyday life due to illness or physical limitations, The Salvation Army served 1,070 meals last year.

Each summer, the Pampa Salvation Army sends 20 young people to Camp Hoblitzelle south of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The sessions are for children who otherwise would not be able to experience summer camp. Boys can join the Salvation Army Adventure Corps and girls can join the Sunbeams. Musical programs are also available. Christmas and Thanksgiving are traditionally the busiest

times of the year for The Salvation Army. The Pampa Center serves holiday meals to approximately 400 needy families each Christmas, in addition to giving toys and clothing to their children and distributing gift packs to area nursing homes.

Last year, Pampa United Way was able to contribute over \$41,000 to help support these vital services. Your help is urgently needed to make this year's campaign a success. If you have not been contacted by a United Way volunteer, please call 669-1001 to receive a pledge card.

The Pampa Salvation Army office is located at 701 S. Cuyler. For more information, call 665-7233.

Compactors, forklifts compete in rubbish rodeo

HOUSTON (AP) — Participants in this rodeo guide 75,000-pound trash compactors through serpentine courses with makeshift loading docks and alleys, trying not to touch tennis balls atop cones lining the track.

Welcome to the Browning-Ferris Industries Rodeo, an annual rubbish roundup held at the Farm & Ranch Club in Bear Creek Park in Houston, to reward employees while promoting safety.

About 180 competitors from Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and all of BFI's divisions in the United States participated Saturday while nearly 3,000 fans cheered.

In the nine years since the rodeo's inception, the company's street accidents are down 40 per-

cent, said Pam Harris, one of the judges and division vice president for safety and health.

Ms. Harris said the savings far outweigh the cost of bringing employees and their families from operations around the world.

Events were created for everything from forklifts and bulldozers to the huge trash compactors.

Drivers must know exactly where their wheels, fenders and bumpers are at all times. Their first test is a sharp turn in which they must come as close as possible to a barrel but not touch it.

Then they are directed through a twisted course, forward and in reverse.

After backing into a loading dock and driving through an alley, they take their truck through two lines of tennis balls

just barely wide enough for the rear dual wheels. Every ball that is touched is a point lost.

Another challenge is to use the blade to push a row of tennis balls off balanced mounts without tipping over their plastic bases. Then they must do the same thing but this time with an egg.

Ms. Harris said the biggest competition is between the company's various districts, which vie for the top score. The southern district, of which Texas is a part, was the top scorer in this year's events. Texas winners include Jose Molina, Juan Regla and Jose Rivera of Houston, Rickey Reed of Dayton, Roberto Arauzza of San Antonio, Ronald Braddy of La Vernia, Jess Andrade of Sinton and Julian Gonzales of Mathis.

Fort Worth appeal argues race bias in crack sentences

FORT WORTH (AP) — The national debate over the disparity of sentences for users of crack cocaine versus powder cocaine has reached Texas.

Altonio Douglas, a first offender, has appealed the life sentence he received based on the argument that if he sold the same amount of powder cocaine, he would have gotten 12 to 15 years. His attorneys are set to argue the appeal his sentence on Nov. 7 before the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The appeal comes as civil-rights groups and the U.S. Sentencing Commission are calling for equalization of federal sentencing guidelines for the two forms of the drug.

"I'm not saying (Congress) sat down and said, 'Hey, let's make crack sentences more harsh so we can get a lot more black people in jail,'" said Douglas' attorney, Don Gandy. "I'm saying that's the practical effect of what happened, and it is an effect without a reason."

Almost a decade has passed since Congress first differentiated between crack and powder cocaine. In 1988, lawmakers further stiffened crack penalties.

The current law is based on a 100-1 ratio, meaning that a person convicted of possessing 5 grams of crack would get the same minimum five years as someone convicted of possessing 500 grams of powder.

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Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Viewpoints

Million Man March out of hand?



L. Brent Bozell

Watching live and unedited the entire footage of the Million Man March, some things could have touched the hearts of the whole country. When two young boys asked for black men to be their fathers and their grandfathers, to love them and discipline them, you could feel the anguish of two out of every three black children in America today.

When black men told interviewers that they came to Washington to show the nation that they aren't just negative stereotypes of drug dealers and wife abusers, of drive-by shooters and absent fathers, you could not help but wish them well.

But watching the unedited festivities also led to disturbing images. A young girl ended a Farrakhan authored poem by calling blacks "God's chosen race." Greenpeace's Damu Smith blamed "rich white men in power" for "wreaking havoc on our community," including "rolling back voting rights" and "putting toxic waste in our communities."

Former Rep. Gus Savage offered his trademark racism and anti-Semitism in a day supposedly reserved for atonement. "Blacks should atone not for our anger but for not being angry enough at the growing racism and incipient fascism of white America. ... White dreams have crippled many black children, and white values have maimed many black families because the selfishness and greed of whites do not serve us well." After reaffirming that "it is ridiculous for a white to call a black a racist," Savage ended with the bizarre assertion that "we are an oppressed colony in the most imperialist nation the world has ever known."

Then, there was the unavoidable Castro-length address by Louis Farrakhan. It started off well enough with a spiritual message all could embrace. Had he limited his remarks to that, he would have moved mountains. He didn't. Instead, what followed was a rambling, racist commentary

suggesting a white conspiracy dating back to the time of Jesus. He professed to have love for his country and then assailed everything it stands for. He called for unity - but only for blacks in a mission to bring down racist America. Farrakhan said God had acted through him to call the march. If that's true, I assert that God was also at work when the cable went out on my hotel television screen after an hour and a half of this nonsense.

In their coverage, many media outlets decided to do what they often do with untidy left-wing Washington protests. They tried to mainstream it. Talk to sympathetic marchers. Keep actual rally speech sound bites to a minimum. Edit out all the unpleasantness. Savage's racist and anti-Semitic rant went mostly ignored, despite the controversy over Farrakhan's bigotry.

ABC is famous for this - it mainstreamed the Gulf War marches in 1991 and the gay march in 1993. It returned to form in devoting almost the entire Oct. 16 newscast to the march. Peter Jennings downplayed the controversy over Farrakhan. "We begin here in Washington today with a massive demonstration of black togetherness that was much more, and perhaps much different, than its original speakers had intended ...

the hugely popular entertainer Stevie Wonder may have got this crowd's mood right when he said that this was bigger than any one leader."

Minutes later, he repeated: "For most of the hundreds of thousands who came here today, the event far overshadowed the man who organized it." But Jennings went on to describe how Farrakhan's speech made an "enormous impression." Reporter Ron Claiborne's story emphasized the "lavish praise" for Farrakhan and left out all of his oddity.

Jennings concluded the broadcast: "It would be astonishing if this public performance by Farrakhan were to end or even minimize the controversy which he inspires in the country as a whole, but it would be a terrible mistake not to recognize that here today he inspired many people, and, in a broader sense, as one participant here after another has reaffirmed, this day, at this time and at this place, really did mean unity over division."

All of this goes to prove that Jennings has one standard for Louis Farrakhan and another for, say, Pat Buchanan or Pat Robertson. After Buchanan's 1992 Republican convention speech, Jennings immediately suggested: "Took a number of shots at Hillary Clinton. Didn't get that altogether accurate, but that'll come out in the debate as time goes on." Correcting Farrakhan might have required all of Jennings' air time. ABC can investigate Pat Robertson's finances, as it did last October, but Farrakhan's personal wealth (as documented by the *Chicago Tribune*) isn't worth exploring.

The idea of a black social renewal, newly inspired by the individual rededication of thousands of black men, is powerful. Hopefully, Farrakhan will not be. But the picture many viewers saw of the unedited march shows that ABC chose not to distinguish between the two and left the truth telling to somebody else.

Opinion

Interpreting pope's message as political

Perhaps the most fascinating thing about the sixth visit to the United States by Pope John Paul II - his fourth during his papacy - is watching reporters and commentators attempt to decode and translate an essentially religious and spiritual message into a political and secular program. A good deal is usually lost in the process.

For example, contained within Pope John Paul's address at his arrival in Newark was the following sentence: "It would indeed be sad if the United States were to turn away from that enterprising spirit which has always showed the most practical and responsible ways of continuing to share with others the blessings God has richly bestowed here."

A news story - not an "analysis," but a news story - viewed that as a veiled criticism of Republican efforts to reduce foreign aid and social programs. A fascinating and acrobatic leap of logic.

Of course, some of the pope's comments were more direct and less likely to yield to tortured interpretation. Noting that the United States has been "a haven for generation after generation of new arrivals," coupled with the hope that this proud heritage would not be reversed, seems fairly clear as a celebration of immigration.

But some people - including some who are visibly members of the Catholic Church - will probably find a way to see the true, underlying meaning as an endorsement of a moratorium on immigration.

Can we resist the temptation? Perhaps. Some of Pope John Paul's comments to the United Nations General Assembly seem worthy of direct quotation without any effort to put our own spin on them.

"On the threshold of a new millennium, we are witnessing an extraordinary global acceleration of that quest for freedom which is one of the great dynamics of human history. This phenomenon is not limited to any one part of the world; nor is it the expression of any single culture. Men and women throughout the world, even when threatened by violence, have taken the risk of freedom, asking to be given a place in social, political and economic life which is commensurate with their dignity as free human beings.

This universal longing for freedom is truly one of the distinguishing marks of our time.

"It is important for us to grasp what might be called the inner structure of this worldwide movement. It is precisely its global character which offers us its first and fundamental 'key' and confirms that there are indeed universal human rights, rooted in the nature of the person, rights which reflect the objective and inviolable demands of a universal moral law."

Ponder that and interpret it for yourself.

STAIER
ONE CONCERNED BEST BFFS



Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 1995. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Fifty years ago, on Oct. 30, 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing.

On this date: In 1735, the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Mass.

In 1938, the radio play that panicked the nation, "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS.

In 1944, the Martha Graham ballet "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, premiered at the Library of Congress, with Graham in a leading role.

In 1953, Gen. George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Albert Schweitzer received the Peace Prize for 1952.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb with a force estimated at 58 megatons.

The 'me' generation is growing up fast

The evidence continues to mount that the "Me" generation is sorely neglecting its children.

The Carnegie Corp. of New York has released a new study analyzing a variety of data about how children are faring in this country - and concludes that unless serious reform begins now, the outlook is bleak, not just for these children but for society as a whole.

In 1960, just 5% of children in America were born to unmarried mothers. By 1990, that figure had jumped to 28%. Only 7% of youngsters under the age of 3 lived with one parent in 1960. By 1990, 27%, more than one in four, lived with only one parent. And, as is well documented by now, children in single-parent families are far more likely to be poor, to be emotionally disturbed, to fail at school, to become violent, to have illegitimate children themselves and to taste of the varieties of human misery than do those who grow up in two-parent families (biological or adoptive).

"Collectively, we all have to say 'Enough,'" Judith E. Jones, director of the National Center for Children in Poverty, told *The New York Times*. "Agreed. But what shall we do?"

The Carnegie Corp. recommends government business partnerships to guarantee "quality" child care and overhauling the health-care system to provide pre-natal care and immunizations for young children. It also urges businesses, even those with fewer than 50 employees, to provide four to six months of partially paid leave upon the birth or adoption of an infant.

The Carnegie report is encouraging because, unlike so many of its ilk in the past, it does not



Mona Charen

place responsibility for the perilous state of America's children on poverty or racism. Children are in trouble, the report seems to be saying, because of the conduct and choices of parents.

The kids in the worst trouble are the 3 million children living in poverty. It is these children who are most often seriously neglected, abused and deprived. It is primarily these children the report has in mind when it laments the number of children who are witnessing stabbings, shootings and beatings with their own eyes. And it is these children who represent the huge jump - from 300,000 in 1987 to 460,000 in 1991 - in the number of children placed in foster care.

What does a society do with large numbers of incompetent, often drug abusing women who have babies they cannot adequately care for? The Carnegie report highlights the problems of the poor but presents proposals - like more generous parental leave - that would primarily affect the middle class. The report does tout programs like one in South Carolina

that teams young pregnant girls with experienced mothers and others that offer parenting classes for pregnant girls, but those are the kinds of programs that cannot be replicated on a national scale.

And even if they could, they probably wouldn't work. The men and women who are abusing and neglecting their children are doing so only partly out of ignorance. These are people who are barely functioning. Their kids go unimmunized not because the health-care system denies them vaccines, but because they are careless parents. The overwhelming majority of kids in foster care are there because their parents are drug addicts. The Carnegie Corp. would do well to consider endorsing more rapid termination of parental rights for children who spend their entire childhoods in the twilight of foster care when they could be placed in loving, adoptive families.

The Carnegie report is right to cite the high divorce rate and working parents among the problems faced by America's children. But there is a world of difference between the problems faced by middle-class kids, even those with divorced parents, and those of the underclass.

If we are to collectively "say 'Enough'" to the problems of children in poverty, we are going to have to overhaul the welfare system, not health care. We are going to have to change the culture of moral vacuity, not the parental leave allowance of small companies.

It comes down to this: If tomorrow, the number of children being born to single women dropped to zero, the problems of child poverty would almost completely disappear.

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Berry's World



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Time to rid racial questions of government

Let the president, as proposed, appoint a commission to study race relations. And let the commission come back with a report saying that race relations, beyond some fundamental guarantees of fairness, isn't the government's business.

Racial division - from the Old Testament to the new Russia - seems inbred in human affairs, but government doesn't have to make things worse, as is commonly the case whenever government seeks to impose "solutions."

We have had 30 years now of government "solutions" to our racial problem. Are things better? Do Americans of varying races love each other better, respect each other more deeply? If so, accounts of the O. J. verdict and the Million Man March make strange reading.

Yet, a small bipartisan band of congressional representatives wants another "bipartisan commission with impeccable credentials" so that we may have "healthy discussion and a new era of progress between the races."

The word "between" signifies the interaction of just two groups; "among" refers to an indefinite number of parties. The implication of the congressmen's call is that race friction is a matter of blacks on the one hand, everybody else on the other hand - whites, Hispanics, Asians and so on.

This, if true, is a dismal judgment. Yet, all we have to do is look around. Blacks - not whites, not Hispanics, not Asians - rejoiced at the O.J. Simpson decision and marched with Farrakhan in Washington. The cleavage in our society is the



William Murchison

ancient one - a black-and-white matter. Our modern wont is to clamor for a government solution. But what kind? That's the question. Segregation was a government "solution." Integration was the counter-solution, divided in two parts: first, the removal of arbitrary barriers between the races, then compulsory steps to make sure the fallen barriers were transcended, including affirmative action, busing and the dispersal of the poor into upper- and middle-income neighborhoods.

At the personal level, things have improved markedly. As individuals, blacks and whites mingle on terms of equality and even friendship. Clarence Thomas and O.J. Simpson both married white women. Some on both sides of the racial divide swallowed hard when this was advertised, but such voluntary communion was unthinkable 30 years ago.

It is the official, governmentally sanctioned solutions that arouse resentment and division. The government in these cases picks winners and

losers, thus deepening divisions between the two.

Nor can the government enforce its own solutions. When the federal courts grandly commanded the school buses to pluck students out of their neighborhoods and transport them elsewhere for the sake of brotherhood, vast numbers of parents said, In a pig's eye! They moved. Or began patronizing public schools. Busing has been a disaster: indeed, nearly as big a disaster as welfare, which was intended to raise the poor (mostly black) in worldly status but, as we now know, has bred in them dependency and dysfunction. Affirmative action, because it defines unfairness as fairness, equally excites resentment.

What should government do about race relations? Essentially, back away. Enforce constitutional guarantees: the right to vote, the right to speak, worship and petition, and the right to even-handed treatment in education and the workplace, though this is painfully hard to define precisely. Beyond this, we have to depend on individual goodwill and on the promptings of religion - the greatest, most neglected resource at our disposal. When government says we're all equal, various somebodies will growl. Who says so? When religion instructs us that we're all God's children, at least the likelihood of a surly reply diminishes. How many believers are going to thumb their noses at God?

Why God made different races, God alone knows. But He did. The historic quest for racial peace has to be founded on religious principle, not the arbitrary judgments that pass for public policy. Otherwise, we end up hooting and shooting at each other. Very much like now, come to think of it.

Poll: Gramm faces tough battle to win his home state

By STEVE RAY and ANNA M. TINSLEY
Harte-Hanks Texas Poll Syndicate
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U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who is running for Senate while pursuing the White House, may find himself in a tough battle to win in his home state, according to The Harte-Hanks Texas Poll.

The poll shows Gramm running neck-and-neck with Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas among Texas Republicans for the presidential nomination.

He is statistically even with President Clinton in a head-to-head matchup in the state and he could be in trouble in his bid for re-election against at least one popular Democrat. Gramm doesn't pull 50 percent of the vote in any of the possible contests measured by the poll.

"For an incumbent U.S. senator who thinks he can be president, and who a re-elect number less than 50 percent, that's real trouble," said Ed Martin, executive director of the Texas Democratic Party.

But Gramm said he was not worried about the poll results. He said his strategists had advised him to "go campaign in Iowa" without mounting a major campaign in Texas.

"I'm not campaigning in Texas," he said. "In the end, I'm going to carry every delegate in Texas, all 123. We have a winner-take-all system in Texas. So

if I get one more vote, I get all 123 delegates.

"So I could devote a lot of energy to it and win a resounding victory and get all 123 delegates, or I can put a focus on trying to carry other states," he said. "My supporters in Texas tell me, 'Don't campaign here. Go campaign in Iowa.' And in the end, I'm going to carry Texas."

That kind of attitude is exactly what will turn voters from Gramm to other Republican or Democratic candidates, Martin said.

"I think people think it's time we bring our U.S. Senate seat back home and have a senator who wants to work for what matters to us," he said.

Gramm was tied with Dole at 32 percent each among likely voters in the Republican presidential primary. The rest of the vote was spread out among eight other GOP contenders for the presidential nomination.

In a head-to-head matchup against President Clinton, Gramm pulled 44 percent of the vote to 40 percent for Clinton, in a state where Clinton's popularity ratings have stayed low. But the poll has a plus or minus margin of 3 percent, meaning that the percentages could go that amount in either way. That's a statistical deadheat.

And when paired against a popular Democrat, former Gov. Ann Richards, Gramm gets 45 percent of the vote compared to 44 percent for Richards, even though she is not a candidate for the post.

Gramm is seeking both the presidency and his

U.S. Senate seat under a Texas law that allows officials to run for national office and the U.S. Senate at the same time.

The poll was conducted Oct. 12-23. The Office of Survey Research at the University of Texas surveyed 1,010 adult Texans for Harte-Hanks Communications Inc.

This is not the first poll to show Gramm in possible trouble in his home state.

An August Texas Poll showed that 47 percent of Texans rated Gramm's job performance excellent or good and 40 percent graded him as fair or poor.

At the time, he fared worse than Texas' other senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison, who received excellent or good ratings from 53 percent of Texans.

Austin political consultant Bill Miller, who has worked for both Democrats and Republicans, said he doesn't believe Gramm is in any real trouble.

"In the final analysis, Gramm will carry in the Republican (presidential) primary," Miller said. "Texans will support a Texan."

And state Republican leaders said the poll results stem from negative press received by Gramm during his presidential run.

"Phil Gramm has gotten a lot of negative press in the last few months," Texas Republican Party Chairman Tom Pauken said. "These polls are barometers of public opinion but you have got to get into the intensity of feelings that people have (to determine who will vote).

"Gramm is fine in terms of re-election as senator. In a race between Bill Clinton and Gramm, I wouldn't want to predict."

Richards, who lost her re-election bid last year to Republican Gov. George W. Bush, was out of state and could not be reached for comment. Bill Crier, her former press secretary, said it was unlikely Richards would seek a seat in the U.S. Senate.

"I have never heard Ann Richards express any interest in running for the U.S. Senate before," he said. "It would surprise me very much if she was interested."

Miller said Richards probably has a much higher standing with Texas voters than other Democratic candidates. That includes U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman and attorney John Odam, who have announced against Gramm, and state Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, who is considering the race.

"The problem with Chapman and Montford is that they would be underfunded," Miller said, "and they both have long political records that will be attacked."

"Because of his money and his aggressiveness, Gramm will make them the issue," he said. "He's got lots of money and none (of the other Democrats) are as strong as Ann Richards."

Overall, Republicans made up the majority of those polled, with 31.1 percent, followed closely by Democrats with 29 percent and independents with 25 percent.

Beware - Halloween's near

Halloween safety tips

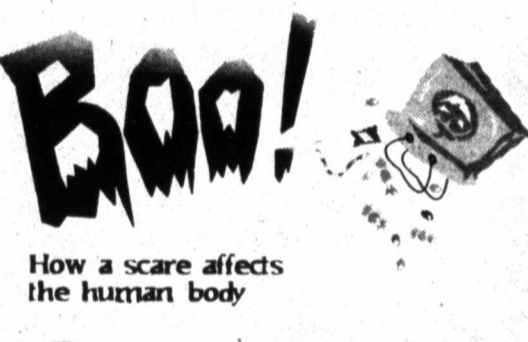


- 1. Do not enter buildings or houses on your own.
- 2. Go trick-or-treating with friends.
- 3. Do not enter a stranger's home or car for the promise of candy.
- 4. Do not eat unwrapped candy or treats until your parents have examined them.
- 5. If you are going out after dark, wear light-colored clothing or carry a flashlight.
- 6. Go trick-or-treating in your neighborhood. Do not wander too far from home.

- 7. Do not wear masks that block your vision.
- 8. Walk on the sidewalk, not in the street.
- 9. Stay with your younger brothers or sisters when trick or treating. Help them cross the street.
- 10. Always cross at the corner and wait for the light.

11. Respect other people's property

Source: New York City Police Dept.



How a scare affects the human body

Fear stimulates the sympathetic division of the body's nervous system, setting off the famed fight-or-flight response. Adrenalin courses through the body, and ...

- Pupils dilate
- Heart rate increases and rapid breathing occurs
- Blood pressure rises
- Blood flows faster to the skeletal muscles, cardiac muscles, lungs and brain — the organs most useful in fighting off danger
- Meanwhile, the organs less useful in the flight-or-flight action take a break. The digestive system shuts down
- Blood sugar rises, adding to the body's energy supply
- Hair follicles contract, producing "goose pimples"

Source: Principles of Human Anatomy

A/P/E: Glanton, R. Toro

Nation briefs

94-year-old shoots 74-year-old nephew
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — A 94-year-old man accused of fatally shooting his nephew may have been upset about the family's talk of putting him in a nursing home, police said.

William Edward Brown shot his 74-year-old nephew Joseph Brown in the chest after he arrived for his weekly visit Sunday, said police Lt. Deneille Atwood.

The victim's daughter, Brenda Huffman, said William Brown had objected to his sons' discussion of putting him in a nursing home. Ironically, Joseph Brown had opposed the idea, Huffman said.

William Brown was jailed without bond on a murder charge. His age was not a factor in deciding what charges were filed, Atwood said.

O.J. attorneys work to improve Jewish relations

BOSTON (AP) — After winning an acquittal for O.J. Simpson, attorneys Johnnie Cochran Jr. and Alan Dershowitz say they now plan to work together to improve black-Jewish relations.

Cochran spoke briefly on Dershowitz's radio show Sunday night, saying, "I really want to do what I can to ... make things better between our two communities."

"We cannot retrench and go back into these camps where we're totally polarized. That's one thing the Simpson verdict brought out," Cochran angered some Jews

during the trial when he likened former police detective Mark Fuhrman's comments about blacks to Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust. Cochran also drew criticism when he hired security guards from the Nation of Islam, which has been accused of anti-Semitism.

Study: Asthmatics suffer from muscle problem

BALTIMORE (AP) — Conventional wisdom holds that irritants such as pollen or pollutants trigger asthma attacks, but a new study focuses on the lung muscles of asthmatics.

Asthma sufferers may have trouble breathing because their lung muscles cannot relax normally, said Dr. Alkis Togias of Johns Hopkins Medical Center, whose findings appear in the November issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

"If that is the case, then we can probably detect it very early on, before people develop asthma ... therefore being able to intervene very early with ways to stop it," Togias said.

In an asthma attack, the smooth muscles that line the air passages of the lungs contract, blocking the air passage and leaving victims gasping for breath.

Togias and a team of Hopkins researchers believe asthmatics and non-asthmatics alike have the same air-blocking reaction to lung irritation. But, they say, asthmatics have a second problem in addition to sensitive lungs: lung muscles that cannot relax normally.

Most Texans not actively involved in politics, poll says

By STEVE RAY and ANNA M. TINSLEY
Harte-Hanks Texas Poll Syndicate
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Most Texans say they're interested in public affairs, but they don't translate their interest into action, according to The Harte-Hanks Texas Poll.

More than three-fourths of Texans say they don't put bumper stickers on their cars or signs in their yards, let alone donate money to political campaigns.

Most Texans — 87 percent — haven't given their time to political parties. And 78 percent haven't attended a political speech in at least two years.

Political scientists say such numbers are no surprise, historically. Political action, they say, always has been a minority enterprise within America's democratic republic.

Political party officials, however, say that while recruiting is a never-ending task, they can usually count on plenty of party regulars to staff the phone banks and turn out for rallies.

The Texas Poll surveyed 1,010 randomly selected adult Texans on their overall political involvement. It was conducted Oct. 12-23 by the Office of Survey Research of the University of

Texas for Harte-Hanks Communications Inc. The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points.

American democracy has been driven for generations by relatively small groups of political activists, said political scientist Allan Saxe, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"I think people do respond to issues that affect them, but on other issues, I think the American public is remarkably uninformed," Saxe said. "That's been true for generations ... The public is not dumb, they're just not interested unless it directly affects them."

Americans are not taught how to participate in the political system, said Bruce Buchanan, a government professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

"Instead, they stay at a distance, out of sight, and let the experts do it," Buchanan said. "We delegate politics to others."

Political activism, he said, is usually driven by an issue that has immediate impact on a voter's life; however, even then it takes a major personal investment to get involved at the grassroots.

"They are interested at some level, but they're also distracted by more pressing concerns that are more immediate for them," Buchanan said.

Home front concerns — job,

family, church, school — "keep them from investing time to learn how to get involved. Ultimately, (politics) goes on the list of things they intend to do, but it's easy to put off because other matters are more pressing."

True political interest, Buchanan said, is difficult to measure, because it's "a motherhood issue, something we ought to be interested in out of a sense of duty."

Saxe said the best gauge of political interest is whether citizens can name their representatives. Most often, he said, they can't.

"In my political sciences classes, it's a guessing game," Saxe said. "I ask who their congressman is, and they remember a name from the news, any name, and throw it out."

"Even when you give them multiple choice, their performance is about 50-50," Saxe said. Ignorance of the issues, he said, leads to disillusionment.

"They blame the media ... then I show them the newspaper with all the names in it," Saxe said. "Then they wonder why special interests run the show ... I would say that no more than 25 percent, probably less, of the electorate own and operate the political system."

Republican Party State Executive Director Barbara Jackson said the roughly 25 percent of politically active Texans

are more than sufficient to staff her growing party.

"What we have found is that the interest for involvement in politics has increased with each election since President Reagan was elected in 1980," Jackson said.

"The people who work in the Republican Party are activists. They are participants in party activities or attach themselves to candidates, whether national or local level," Jackson said.

The Democrats' state executive director, Ed Martin, said that while grassroots organizations often are staffed with single-issue activists, the trick, he said, is to keep them coming back, even when their issue is not on the table.

"We're urging rank and file Democrats to go out and get involved as the Democratic Party in community projects and activities, to walk the talk, to show we share in the issues we talk about," Martin said.

"There is a perception that the parties are just another special interest group, when the truth is that parties are really people, your neighbors, who pay attention to politics," Martin said.

"What parties have to do is get back out in the community, as a vehicle to share community concerns, and then translate that into support for certain matters on the political agenda."

Some say things better left in nature's healing hands

GRAYTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Opal churned almost 30 feet off the front of a towering dune, leaving Dr. William A. Covell's beach cottage perched on top, just 8 feet from the edge of a 20-foot drop to the beach.

"I was shocked and startled," said the retired Pensacola physician. "I never dreamed it would do that. I should have, because (Hurricane) Eloise moved the dune line back 30 feet" 20 years ago.

Now the sugar-white beaches all along a 120-mile stretch of coastal Florida Panhandle are busy with bulldozers as public and private contractors scrape sand from the water's edge to rebuild dunes flattened by Opal's 15-foot storm surge on Oct. 4.

But some experts say these efforts are bound to fail and may do more harm than good.

"They should do the same thing they did after Eloise came in '75," said Robert G. Murphy, a consulting geologist who lives in Grayton Beach. "That was to do nothing."

Dune building requires vegetation as well as sand. Sea oats, which hold the dunes together, will come back by themselves, but the heavy equipment is destroying them, Murphy said.

"They are reacting in knee-jerk fashion to houses hanging over the precipice," he said. "After Eloise, left alone, we were the most pristine beach in the United States."

Grayton Beach State Recreation Area was named the top beach of 1994 in a nationwide geological survey that considered sand softness, water and air temperatures, the number of sunny days, access, smells, pests and litter.

State parks director Fran Mainella is awaiting recommendations from state coastal experts, but said her inclination was to let nature take its course at Grayton and other parks where dunes were scoured flat.

"There are still pieces of dunes left, and they'll start catching sand right away," she said. "It's amazing how quick-

ly things start building back."

The Gulf Islands National Seashore also is taking the do-nothing approach for its beaches on Santa Rosa Island about 50 miles west of here.

Sand naturally migrates from offshore bars onto the beach and gradually builds into dunes as the grains are caught by sea oats and other plants.

But sea oats planted on man-made dunes lack the deep root networks needed to hold the sand in place and the dunes will wash away, said Riley Hoggard, resource management specialist for the national seashore.

The state Department of Environmental Protection limits scraping to no more than a foot deep once every two days. But Craig Plummer of Rutland-Forbes, Covell's contractor, said sand is moving ashore more slowly than anticipated and the scraping interval should be four days.

Scraping too often or too deeply will allow the ocean to

encroach and make beach-front property more vulnerable to storm damage.

"There is a problem out there with other people on their own doing stuff that's not approved," Plummer said. Covell and his wife, Bonnie, obtained a DEP permit to restore their dune.

Murphy said initial state guidelines were vague and specific limits weren't set until two weeks after Opal's rampage. DEP inspectors also are spread thin and must rely on local governments to help issue permits and handle enforcement.

Another problem is that sea oats are now dormant and cannot be planted until late winter or early spring. They also are in short supply and expensive, retailing for about \$1 per plant.

Plummer said he hopes to make the Covells' project a model. Sand fencing will be set up in front of the dune to keep it in place until sea oats can be planted.

Day of destiny for Canada as Quebecers decide to stay or go

MONTREAL (AP) — Canada's destiny is at stake today as 5 million Quebec voters decide whether their province — with one-fourth of the country's people and one-sixth of its land — should break away to form an independent nation.

Final polls indicated the outcome was too close to call. A separatist victory would thrust Canada into perhaps the greatest crisis of its history, while a narrow federalist victory would leave the mostly French-speaking province bitterly divided.

Earlier in the campaign, the debate focused largely on whether Quebec would suffer economic calamity if it separated. But on Sunday, at their closing rallies, leaders of the rival sides played to emotions, not to pragmatism.

"Say Yes to the people of Quebec," pleaded separatist leader Lucien Bouchard to 2,000 supporters in Beauport, near Quebec City. "We don't have the

right to let this chance pass us by. God knows when there will be another chance."

Prime Minister Jean Chretien, a Quebecer committed to keeping Canada intact, was equally passionate at a rally in Hull, a city in western Quebec across the Ottawa River from Canada's capital.

"Tomorrow night, we Quebecers, our home will still be Quebec, our country will still be Canada," he said. "We have learned that never, never should we take our country Canada for granted."

The flag-waving crowd, before dispersing, sang the national anthem, "O Canada" — the French and English versions resounding simultaneously through a packed museum auditorium. Thousands of Ottawa residents came over bridges from Ontario to join Quebecers at the rally.

The last polls gave a slight edge to the separatists among decided

voters. But pollsters considered the race a dead heat because most of the 10 percent undecided were expected to back the federalists.

Chretien and his allies sounded more confident Sunday than they had in recent days, apparently convinced that a wave of unity rallies nationwide had convinced wavering Quebecers their compatriots cared about them.

Still, police mobilized today as a precautionary measure, particularly in bilingual Montreal and in Hull.

About 82 percent of Quebec-

ers are French-speaking, and a majority were likely to support independence, according to polls. But an overwhelming majority of English-speaking and immigrant Quebecers are expected to vote to stay in Canada.

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Son Ashamed of Mother Esposes His Own Deceit

DEAR ABBY: I am the only living parent of a 26-year-old professional son I'll call "Charles." He lives in another state and wants me to visit him soon.

Charles confessed that he has told his friends and business associates that I have several college degrees and hold a much higher position in the company I work for. He claims he had to build me up in order to gain their acceptance, and when I come to visit him, I will have to back him up.

It is obvious that my son is ashamed of me and doesn't realize that whatever he says can be checked, and his being exposed as a liar would be far more embarrassing than having a less-than-prestigious background.

I've told Charles in no uncertain terms that I refuse to visit him until he sets the record straight. He has flatly refused to do so.

Abby, I may not have the "pedigree" my son would like me to have, but I have to live with myself, and I am standing firm in my decision.

I can't discuss this with my family or friends because I fear they would think less of my son were I to expose him for the shallow, deceitful person he is.

Please advise me.

HIS MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: My hat is off to you. How unfortunate that your son felt it necessary to



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

lie to his business associates and friends in order to impress them.

Your determination to be totally truthful far exceeds any "degrees" or lofty positions you might have attained. Your saying that you have to live with yourself reminds me of this poem I memorized when I was in my teens:

MYSELF by Edgar Guest
I have to live with myself, and so,
I want to be fit for myself to know;
I want to be able as days go by,
Always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I've done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf

A lot of secrets about myself, And fool myself as I come and go

Into thinking that nobody else will know
The kind of man I really am; I don't want to dress myself up in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect,
I want to deserve all men's respect;

But here in this struggle for fame and pelf,
I want to be able to like myself.

I don't want to think as I come and go

That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.

I never can hide myself from me,

I see what others may never see,

I know what others may never know,

I never can fool myself — and so,

Whatever happens, I want to be

Self-respecting and conscience free.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope



Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1995

Several areas of your life are likely to become more harmonious in the year ahead. However, you may also have to contend with a few mildly disruptive influences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Good things that have been denied to others may be available to you today. Make sure to

show appropriate gratitude. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10150.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do not be indifferent in regard to matters that directly affect your interests. In order to succeed, you must be assertive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Sometimes, you must prime the pump before you can generate a flow of water. Today, you must give if you expect to receive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Actions taken today could have far-reaching effects. Fortunately, you will be in a position to make all the right moves.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You might not have as much control over important matters as you'd like today. However, you will be able to trust friends to act on your behalf.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Companions might think faster on their feet today, but only you can recognize the value of their

ideas and maximize the benefits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A challenging problem will awaken your ingenuity today. In addition, you should use competition to strengthen your resolve.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Endeavors you attempt on your own today may be only marginally successful. Conversely, you might be luckier than usual in partnership arrangements.

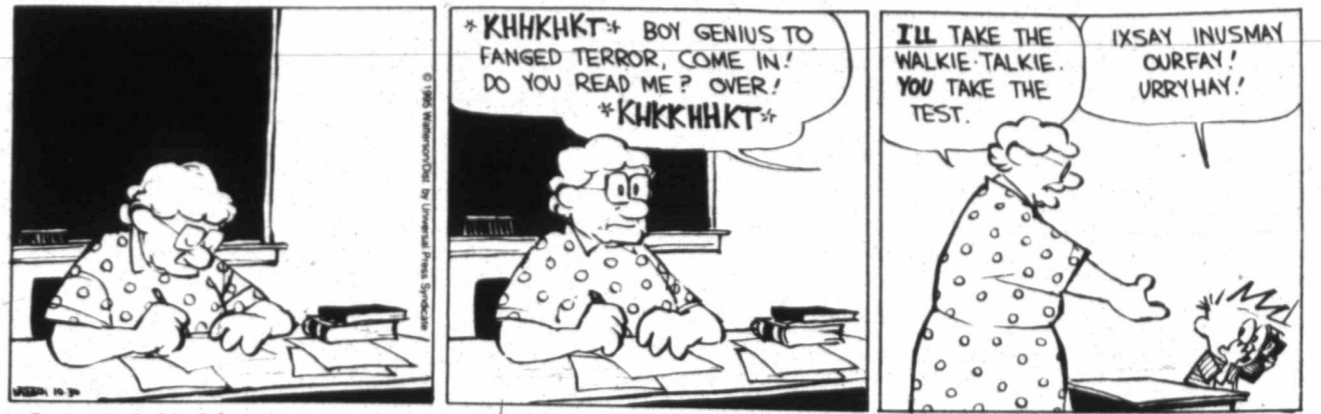
CANCER (June 21-July 22) Overall, conditions look promising for you today. The disruptive effects of negative developments will not last long.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Critical matters should be handled sensibly today. However, don't be so cautious that you avoid taking risks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A considerable amount of financial opportunity will surround you today. Situations that already look promising can be expanded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Be positive regarding the outcome of events that affect your financial well-being. You could be much luckier than you realize.

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Calvin & Hobbes



Arlo & Janis



Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore



"Will God know it's me?"



"You'll have to communicate better. I'm not forgiving you until I know what I'm forgiving you for."

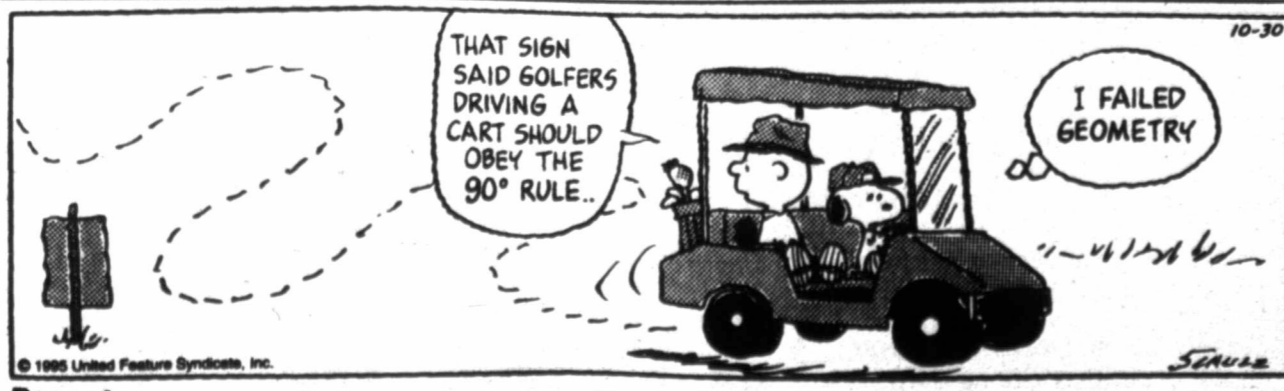
The Family Circus



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Sports

Notebook

PREP FOOTBALL

PAMPA — Pampa visits Dumas Friday night for a District 1-4A game, beginning at 7:30.

Pampa is 6-1 for the season and 3-0 in district. Dumas is 2-5 overall and 0-3 in district.

Pampa defeated Randall, 40-3 last Friday night. Dumas is coming off a 17-0 win over Amarillo Caprock.

The Harvesters have two games left in the regular season after Friday night. Pampa hosts Hereford Nov. 10 and goes to Borger Nov. 17.

Pampa was ranked No. 11 in last week's Harris Rating System.

AUTO RACING

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — One by one, Michael Schumacher's rivals found themselves slipping in the rain, tumbling through the sand and waving helplessly for the mechanics.

While they struggled in Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix, Schumacher raced flawlessly to his ninth victory this season, tying Nigel Mansell's 1992 Formula One record.

The German driver can break the mark next month in the season finale, the Australian Grand Prix.

"It's a year of dreams," Schumacher said after clinching the constructor's title for Benetton.

Schumacher, who moves to Ferrari next season, had clinched his second straight series title last week in the Pacific Grand Prix.

PRO FOOTBALL

DALLAS (AP) — Pro Bowl defensive lineman Leon Lett and reserve cornerback Clayton Holmes of the Dallas Cowboys could be suspended for as long as six weeks for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy, according to a published report.

The Dallas Morning News, citing an unidentified source, said today that tests indicate the players violated the policy.

Speaking to a reporter in the locker room after Sunday's 28-13 victory at Atlanta, Lett denied the league informed him he tested positive for a second time and would therefore be suspended.

But minutes later, he said, "I don't know what they've got on me. I have to call my agent and see what's up."

Holmes was not available for comment. Whether he was a first- or second-time offender was not clear, the newspaper said.

NBC's Will McDonough reported Sunday that two unidentified players were facing suspensions and had appealed the test results.

GOLF

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — By the time the wind and slick greens of Southern Hills finally caught up with Billy Mayfair at the Tour Championship, he had a big enough lead to hold on Sunday for the biggest payoff of the year.

Mayfair won the \$3 million season-ending tournament by shooting a 3-over 73, giving him an even-par total of 280 over a course that yielded just one round below par Sunday and only 14 subpar rounds for the entire tournament.

His three-stroke victory gave him \$540,000. He finished second on the money list with \$1,543,192, about \$111,000 behind Greg Norman.

It was the first time even-par or worse had won a 72-hole PGA Tour event since 1981, when Bruce Lietzke won the Byron Nelson Classic at 1-over 281.

"I felt I could shoot a little over par and win," said Mayfair, who won the Western Open and had five other top 10 finishes this year. "But when you have the best players in the world out here, you never know. You just have to play the best you can and hope it's good enough."

Cowboys bounce back to clip Falcons

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Deion Sanders returned to "his house" Sunday and watched teammates Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith lay claim to the Georgia Dome's deed.

While Sanders had a quiet day at cornerback and caught a 6-yard pass, Aikman, Irvin and Smith led the Cowboys to three touchdowns in a nine-minute span as they overcame an early 10-0 deficit to beat Atlanta 28-13.

"Our offense is running Emmitt and throwing to Michael and Jay Novacek. If we can get Deion in there, so much the better," said Aikman, who was 19 of 25 for 198 yards and two touchdowns.

That's what happened Sunday. Smith rushed for 167 yards in 26 carries and scored his 14th touchdown in eight games on a 1-yard run in the second quarter; Irvin caught 10 passes for 135 yards, including a leaping catch on a 43-yard pass from Aikman, and Novacek caught one pass for 1 yard for one touchdown.

Sanders did his bit — only two passes were thrown in his direction at corner-

back, one of them caught for 9 yards. He also barely missed what could have been an 48-yard touchdown pass, diving in the end zone for a pass that just bounced off his hands.

But it hardly approached his first trip back to his old football home with San Francisco last year. On that day, he got into a fight with Andre Rison and also returned an interception 93 yards for a touchdown.

Afterward, he declared: "This is my house. I built this house."

On Sunday, noting that the Dome had sprung a leak in August after a major storm, he disowned it. "When the roof fell in, I sold it," Sanders said, holding his son Deion Jr. before an overflow crowd of reporters that spilled over from the World Series.

"I didn't really notice Deion out there too much," said Atlanta coach June Jones, who was the Falcons' offensive coordinator when Sanders played in Atlanta. "We were working more to the inside."

It was a strange game that seemed over before it began — just two hours and 40 minutes and six possessions for the Cowboys (7-1). But they scored on their second, third, fourth and fifth, outscoring

the Falcons 28-3 after Atlanta (5-3) had taken an early lead.

"I'd say it was one of our most efficient games offensively," coach Barry Switzer said. "We scored because we had to — we got no turnovers to help us and we needed to score with the minimum number of possessions."

Daryl Johnston ran 8 yards for a fourth-quarter TD and Charles Haley chipped in with two sacks.

As for Sanders, who was in for four offensive plays, most of the joking was about his near touchdown, on which he clearly beat Anthony Phillips on a post pattern. He dived and the ball slid off his fingers.

"Michael Irvin said that Michael Irvin would have caught it," Sanders said. "He would have. I should have caught it."

Sanders left in the fourth quarter with tightness in his left hamstring on a day when Atlanta still basked in the glow of the World Series triumph by the Braves — another team Sanders once played for.

He wasn't needed then, but it looked at the start like he might be.

Before a crowd of 70,089, half of it seemingly Dallas fans — "I thought I was in Texas Stadium," Sanders said — the

Falcons (5-3) jumped to a 10-0 lead. Jeff George, who was 18 of 30 for 175 yards, opened the scoring with a 42-yard touchdown pass to Eric Metcalf and Morten Andersen added a 21-yard field goal following a 77-yard, 16-play drive that consumed just over nine minutes.

Then the Cowboys got serious.

They cut it to 10-7 on Smith's TD at the end of an 80-yard drive on which he ran for 44 yards, and took a 14-10 halftime lead on Aikman's 1-yard pass to Novacek with 15 seconds left in the half.

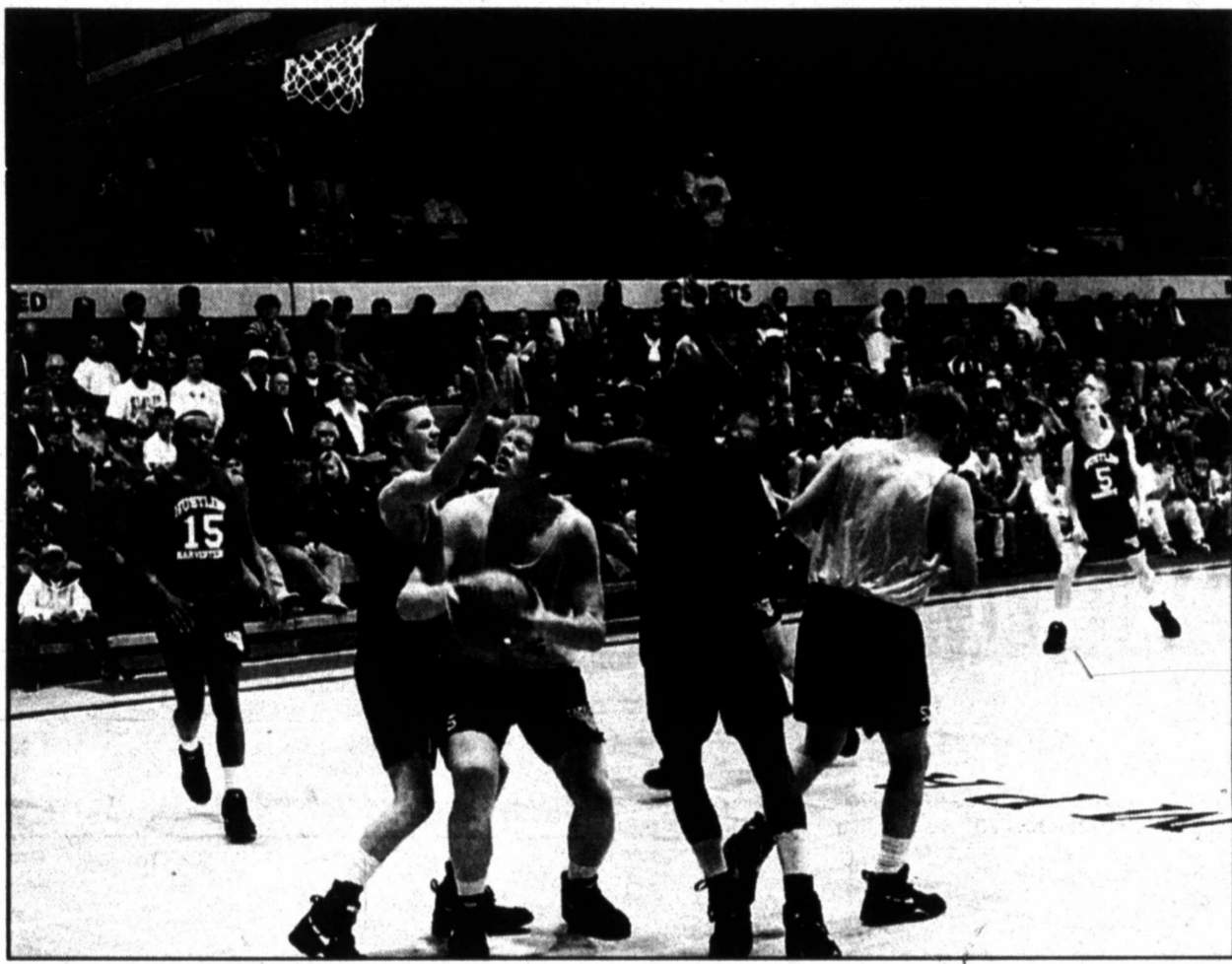
Then, on the first series of the third quarter, Aikman found Irvin on the goal line, where he outleaped Phillips for a touchdown.

And after Andersen's 40-yard field goal cut it to 21-13, Johnston capped things with his 8-yard score as the thousands of Dallas fans punctuated the TD with chants of "Moooooose."

In a way, the game was consolation to the Falcons.

"We played against one of the best teams in the league and we field our own," said wide receiver Terance Mathis. "We had some chances to make plays and win the game. You can't feel bad about that."

Midnight madness



(Pampa News photo by L.D. Strate)

Senior center Chris Miller looks for a shot underneath the basket during the second annual Harvester Midnight Madness basketball practice at McNeely Fieldhouse. Gift certificates and a free trip to Dallas were among the prizes given away to the fans who attended the practice session. The Harvesters open the season Nov. 17 against Abilene High at South Plains College in Levelland. The home opener is Nov. 28 against Palo Duro.

Nebraska seniors remember 1992

By The Associated Press

Nebraska may be riding high atop the polls, but its seniors remember 1992, when another strong Cornhuskers team traveled to Iowa State and was upset.

That year, Nebraska was ranked seventh and was coming off wins over Colorado and Kansas when it fell to the Cyclones 19-10.

The undefeated Cornhuskers don't want a repeat when Iowa State visits Lincoln on Saturday.

"We're only as good as our next performance," outside linebackers coach Torry Samuel said Sunday. "You never know who will be the best competition."

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier, who passed for a career-high 241 yards and two touchdowns in the Huskers' 44-21 win over No. 10 Colorado last weekend, has added incentive to make his next performance just as good.

Iowa State is the only team to beat him in the regular season. Frazier is 28-1 as a starter, 29-3 in bowl games.

In other Top 25 games, it was No. 3 Florida 52, Georgia 17; No. 4 Ohio State 56, Iowa 35; No. 5 Tennessee 56, South Carolina 21; No. 6 Northwestern 17, Illinois 14; No. 7 Michigan 52, Minnesota 17; No. 8 Notre Dame 20, Boston College 10; No. 9 Kansas State 41, No. 11 Kansas 7; No. 12 Penn State 45, Indiana 21.

Also, it was No. 14 Southern Cal 21, No. 15 Washington 21; No. 16 Alabama 38, North Texas 19; No. 17 Texas A&M 31, Houston 7; No. 18 Arkansas 30, No. 21 Auburn 28; Arizona State 35, No. 19 Oregon 24; No. 22 UCLA 33, California 16; No. 23 Texas Tech 34, New Mexico 7, and No. 25 Oklahoma 13, Missouri 9.

No. 2 Florida State, No. 13 Texas, No. 20 Syracuse and No. 24

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Virginia did not play.

Against Colorado, Frazier also ran for 40 yards and a touchdown, Ahman Green ran for two touchdowns and Kris Brown kicked three field goals. Nebraska (8-0, 4-0 Big Eight) beat Colorado (6-2, 2-2) for the fourth straight year while extending the nation's longest winning streak to 21 games.

To defend their national title in a bowl game, the Cornhuskers must beat Iowa State, Kansas and Oklahoma, which would put them in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Jan. 2.

National rushing leader Troy Davis leads Iowa State's offense with 1,526 yards this season, a school record. He has topped 200 yards four times and last week ran for 202 yards in a 38-14 Cyclones win over Oklahoma State.

"We're going to study him now," Samuel said. "He is the key to their offense."

No. 3 Florida 52, Georgia 17

The Gators continued to roll toward their showdown Nov. 25 against Florida State.

Danny Wuerffel passed for 242 yards and five touchdowns in less than three quarters, connecting on three scoring passes to Chris Doering. Georgia (5-4, 3-4 Southeastern Conference) was playing host to Florida (8-0, 7-0) for the first time in 63 years in a game usually played at Jacksonville.

No. 4 Ohio St. 56, Iowa 35

Ohio State, led by Eddie George's four TDs, set a school record with 56 first-half points and remained a half-game behind Northwestern in the Big Ten. The Buckeyes (8-0, 4-0) knocked the Hawkeyes (5-2, 2-2) out of the

No. 5 Tennessee 56, South Carolina 21

Peyton Manning and Joey Kent played catch for the Volunteers. Manning threw for four scores — two to Kent — as Tennessee (7-1, 5-1 SEC) beat South Carolina (4-4, 2-4).

No. 6 Northwestern 17, Illinois 14

Northwestern (7-1, 5-0 Big Ten) overcame a 14-0 deficit, holding on against Illinois (3-4, 1-3) when Eric Collier intercepted a desperation pass with seven seconds left. Darnell Autry gained more than 100 yards for a ninth straight game for the Wildcats.

No. 7 Michigan 52, Minnesota 17

Brian Griese tied a school record for Michigan (7-1, 3-1 Big Ten) with four TD passes, and Tshimanga Biakabutuka ran for two scores and 196 yards. Griese was 14-of-19 for 271 yards against the Gophers (3-4, 1-3).

No. 8 Notre Dame 20, Boston College 10

The Irish (7-2) disposed of the Eagles (2-6) on the strength of two TDs and a career-high 167 rushing yards from Marc Edwards. Boston College had a chance to tie the score at 17 with 12:30 left, but Mark Hartsell was intercepted by Lyrone Cobbin at the Notre Dame 2.

No. 9 Kansas State 41, No. 11 Kansas 7

Matt Miller threw two touchdowns passes for the Wildcats in the biggest game in the rivalry's 93-year history. Eric Hickson ran for 121 yards and Mike Lawrence for 118, giving the Wildcats two 100-yard rushers for the first time since 1979. Both teams are 7-1 and 3-1 in the Big Eight.

No. 12 Penn St. 45, Indiana 21

Turnovers were converted into Penn State touchdowns by Aaron Collins and Terry Killens against the team with the worst turnover margin in the Big Ten.

Canadian extends loop record to perfect 4-0

CANADIAN — Canadian improved its District 2-2A record to a perfect 4-0 Friday night, shutting out Memphis, 21-0.

Daniel Hilton scored two of Canadian's two touchdowns on a 52-yard run and a 70 yard interception return. Tomas Ruiz scored the other one on a 12-yard run.

The Wildcats led, 15-0, at halftime.

Hilton was the game's leading rusher with 111 yards on 14 carries. Luis Sanchez kicked an extra point and also threw a conversion pass to Albert Lusby.

Canadian had 251 yards in total offense. Memphis had 121.

Canadian, 6-1 on the season, hosts Panhandle this Friday night.

Sunray 43, Groom 0

SUNRAY — Sunray blanked Groom, 43-0, in a District 1-1A game Friday night.

Michael Gomez passed for two touchdowns and ran for another one for Sunray.

Sunray led at the half, 20-0.

Sunray had 406 yards in total offense while Groom had 112. Sunray's defense forced Groom into three turnovers.

Sunray is tied with Shamrock for the district lead at 3-0.

Groom, 1-7 overall and 0-3 in district, hosts Wheeler this Friday night.

Oilers down Tampa Bay

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers game plan was plain vanilla against Tampa Bay and it paid off.

"We just took the simple approach and simplified things and came off the ball," quarterback Chris Chandler said after the Oilers used four Al Del Greco field goals and a touchdown set up by an interception to down the Buccaneers 19-7 Sunday.

"We ate up a lot of clock, we made a lot of first downs and Al kicked the ball well for us and the Bucs were having a tough day offensively."

For the game, Houston had the ball 41:51 and the Buccaneers, under a consistently heavy pass rush from the Oilers, had just 18:09. Tampa Bay had just 10 first downs. The Oilers had 22.

What was especially tough for the Buccaneers was when they finally got the ball, particularly in the second half, uncharacteristically they gave it back.

With the Oilers nursing a 9-7 lead in the third quarter thanks to three first-half field goals by Del Greco, Trent Dilfer set a Tampa Bay record when he threw his 138th straight pass without an interception, breaking the mark set by Doug Williams in 1982.

Unfortunately for the Buccaneers, No. 139 wound up in the hands of Houston defensive back Kris Dishman.

Nine plays later, Marion Butts, following guard Erik Norgard, plowed through the left side of the line from the 4 to give Houston a 16-7 lead.

On the next series, Dilfer found Dishman again, giving Dishman the first two-interception game of his career.

"We knew they were going to bring the house and we didn't execute," Dilfer said of the Oiler blitz that forced him into the turnovers. "The blitz should be an exciting time for the offense, not a bad time. Hopefully, this has no bear-

ing on the rest of our season."

"It does feel good, but my teammates helped out," Dishman said. "They got good pressure on the quarterback and that makes covering easy. The most exciting part is that we played error free. If we don't beat ourselves, we will win some games."

Dilfer got his first NFL touchdown, a 21-yard run in the second quarter, but along with the three pickoffs, he completed just 10 of 23 attempts for 82 yards and was sacked three times.

The victory was the first at home this season for the Oilers, who improved to 3-5 and snapped a three-game losing streak. The loss was the second straight for Tampa Bay (5-4) as they head into their bye week.

"We got beat soundly by a very good football team, one much better than their win-loss record," Buccaneers coach Sam Wyche said. "I did a bad job of preparing us..."

"That's my fault. We will accept a team that played that well and earned a win. We don't like it and we hope that it never happens again."

Houston should have had a much easier time.

Twice they got inside the Tampa Bay 10 in the first half and settled for field goals.

On their first possession, the Oilers held the ball for 9:33 and drove 74 yards to the Tampa Bay 1 where they had a first down. They couldn't get the touchdown.

"On the first drive when we had to kick a field goal, that was disappointing because we can't do that if we expect to be successful," Chandler said.

Later, they got to the Tampa Bay 9 and settled for the 3-pointer.

But Del Greco's fourth field goal, from 39 yards, came with just 21 seconds left in the game and after the Oilers held the ball for 9:03 over 16 plays.

"It wasn't always pretty at times but we ran effectively, effectively at the end," Houston coach Jeff Fisher noted.

Saints march past 49ers, 11-7

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers missed Steve Young more than the New Orleans Saints missed Morten Andersen.

Elvis Grbac's second career start in place of the injured Young turned sour and the Saints,

despite two blown field goals by Chip Lohmiller, pulled off a shocker by beating the 49ers 11-7 Sunday.

Jerry Rice became the NFL's leader in career receiving yardage, overtaking James Lofton's 14,004.

A rowdy bus, a slow crossing light and a speeding train led to tragedy

By JAMES WEBB
Associated Press Writer

FOX RIVER GROVE, Ill. (AP) — Teenagers were hollering, a radio was blaring and the school bus driver was late when she pulled up to the railroad tracks and looked down the line.

As she crossed the tracks and stopped for a red light, the rear of the bus hanging above the rails, there was no way for the harried driver or the rowdy kids to know that a 620-ton commuter train was speeding toward them at nearly 70 mph.

It was over seconds later. The train, whistle blowing and brakes locked, slammed into the bus, tearing the cabin from the chassis and hurling it on the ground, facing the opposite direction.

Seven teenagers were dead or fatally injured; more than two dozen others had injuries. The driver "never knew what hit her," one investigator said, and probably couldn't have avoided the train if she'd seen it.

Details pieced together from investigators, eyewitnesses and students on the bus paint a picture of a tragedy that was destined to happen — a combination of bad timing, malfunctioning equipment and dangerous design.

At about 6:40 a.m. Wednesday, Charlie Ward pulled his semi-tractor and gravel rig across the double set of railroad tracks on Algonquin Road and inched up to the red light at the intersection with Northwest Highway in downtown Fox River Grove.

In front of him were the four lanes of the highway. Behind him, 46 feet from the lip of the intersection, were the railroad tracks.

Then the crossing bell went off, the red lights flashed and the crossing gates started to drop.

Ward inched his 30-foot rig forward, almost into the steady stream of highway traffic going by at about 35 mph, to get as far from the tracks and the gate as possible. Forget about staying on the stop line — that would leave him in the path of the express

train, sticking out 2 1/2 feet. Finally the green light came and he turned, with the train only a few hundred feet away. Too close, as usual, Ward thought.

"I go across there every morning, and it's the same routine. And I kinda watch, because those lights come on and gates come down, and that train is here."

About 30 minutes later, bus driver Patricia Catencamp pulled up to the tracks and prepared to cross over to the spot where Ward had his close call.

Catencamp, a veteran safety official for the Cary-Grove school district's transportation department, was a part-time driver filling in on an unfamiliar route. One of the kids was giving her directions, and she was running late, students said.

But when she got to the tracks, she followed the law — stopping the bus, opening the door, looking and listening for an oncoming train. Nothing.

She crossed the tracks toward the red traffic light and stopped the 38 1/2-foot bus with its nose covering the white stop line. That's a traffic violation, but Catencamp knew she had a long bus.

From where she sat, with the bus slanted down on the slight incline toward the intersection, the rear of the bus may have looked clear of the tracks in the rear view mirror. But the last three feet of the bus were not.

If she looked out her left window, west along the gradually rising tracks, her view was obstructed by trees, parked cars and the railroad station a block away.

The train tripped sensors 3,080 feet from the intersection as it barreled forward, beginning the process that flashes the warning lights and lowers the crossing gate at the intersection. It's also supposed to start the cycle that changes the traffic light to green for vehicles in the crossing area.

The train didn't have to blow its whistle because the village had exercised its right to silence the annoying blasts. But the engi-

neer laid on the horn when he saw the bus sticking out in his path. The train was going 69 mph when he hit the brakes, then the emergency brakes.

At that speed he may have needed a mile to stop; he had far less.

Playful 14- and 15-year-olds shouted and gabbed on the bus. A radio was playing. The rail crossing guard hit the back of the bus, and some students thought that was funny. Then they saw the train. Students screamed; at least one ran forward.

She didn't hear the students' warnings, never saw or heard the train grinding toward her, Catencamp told investigators. If she had, the red light in front of her meant she would have had to pull into a near-certain collision with other vehicles to avoid the train.

Village Police Chief Robert Polston was at the intersection that morning with an official from the state Department of Transportation. Polston was angry; there'd been numerous complaints by local residents that the lights were too slow, and that the 1990 widening of the highway left too little room for cars. A train had clipped the rear of a pickup a month ago. Transportation officials contended the light was working properly.

Polston and the official watched the lights work as two trains went by without incident. Then the bus pulled up.

At best, 20 seconds elapsed between the time the train tripped the sensor and it smashed the back three feet of the bus at 7:11 a.m.

"As the train went flying by us you could see the bus bouncing," said Jim Homola, who was sitting in his pickup behind the bus and across the tracks.

"The bus driver came around to the back of the bus and saw the kids and just started screaming 'Oh my God!'" Homola said.

"I saw her face, and she was going 'Oh my God! Oh my God!'" and crying.

Are school buses safe?

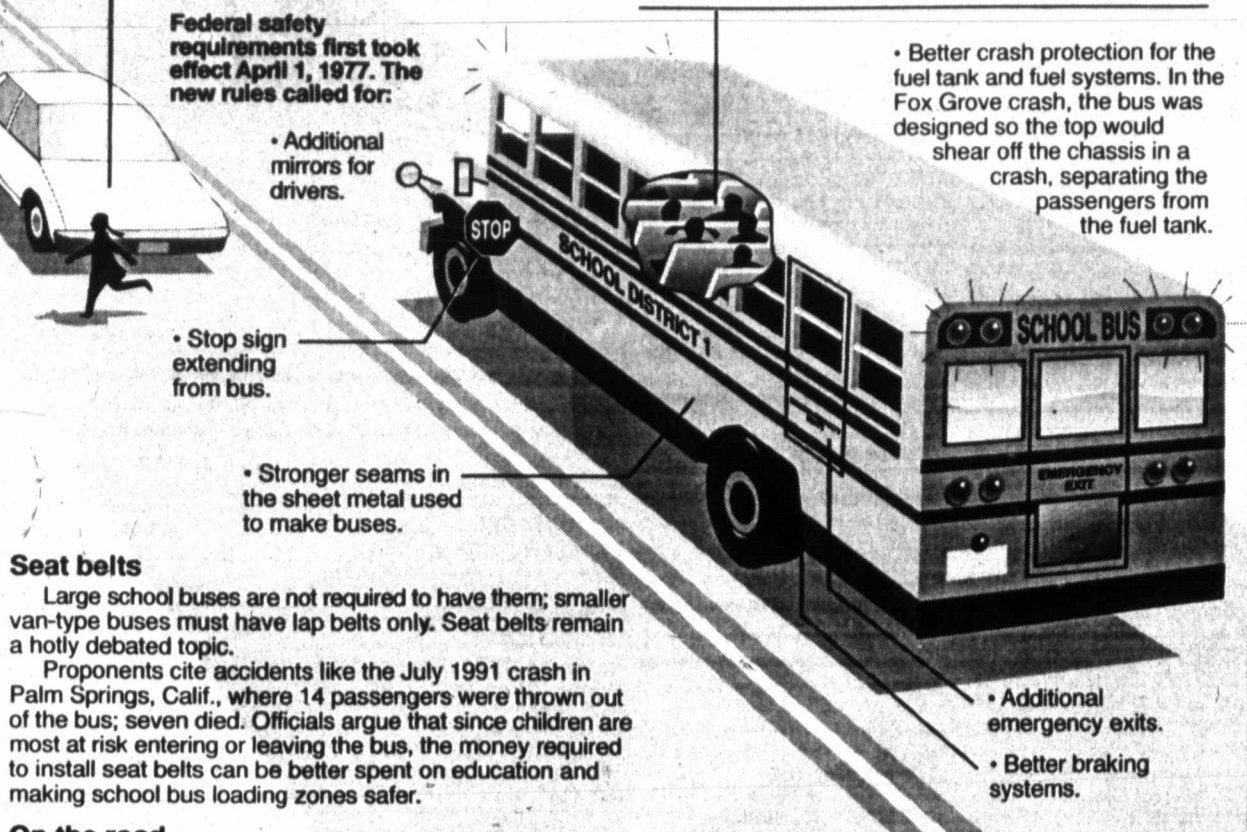
Its bright yellow color makes it the most recognizable vehicle on the road. Its precious cargo multiplies the horror when something goes wrong. Wednesday's fatal bus crash in Fox River Grove, Ill., was catastrophic, but unusual. Overall, school buses are the safest form of surface transportation.

Pedestrians

The riskiest time for a school bus passenger may be when the ride is over. Pedestrians accounted for 28 percent of all school bus-related fatalities; more than half were killed by the bus they were entering or leaving.

Compartmentalization

This idea is the cornerstone of school bus safety. Buses built after 1977 have stronger, more padded seats with higher backs. These seats cushion a blow and keep passengers contained in a small area. National safety officials say this protection is as effective as seat belts.



Seat belts

Large school buses are not required to have them; smaller van-type buses must have lap belts only. Seat belts remain a hotly debated topic.

Proponents cite accidents like the July 1991 crash in Palm Springs, Calif., where 14 passengers were thrown out of the bus; seven died. Officials argue that since children are most at risk entering or leaving the bus, the money required to install seat belts can be better spent on education and making school bus loading zones safer.

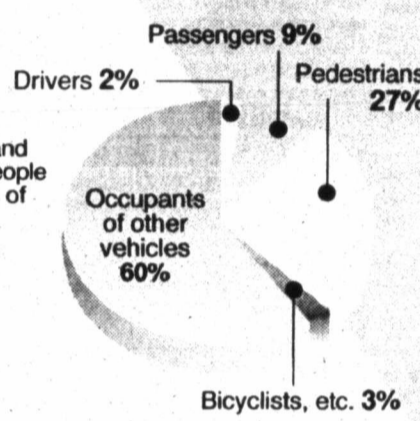
On the road

Each year, about 22 million school-age children ride a school bus. Drivers cover 21 million miles per day, about 3.8 billion miles per year. Less than 0.4 percent of all fatal traffic crashes since 1984 have involved school buses.

School bus deaths

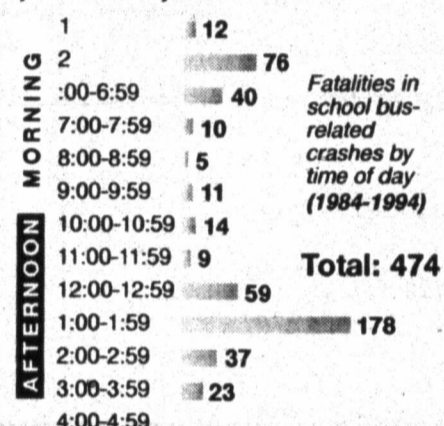
Due in part to the size and weight of a bus, most people killed are the occupants of other vehicles.

Fatalities in school bus-related crashes (1984-1994)
Totals are rounded.



Time of day

Not surprisingly, most crashes occur just before or just after school.



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

AP/Karl G. Huber/Glanton, Dawn Desilets, Jennifer Kiamzon

Most vehicle-train accidents occur at crossings with gates and lights

By TOM GARDNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. (AP) — More than half of vehicle-train crashes nationwide occur at crossings protected by lights and gates, not just stop signs, according to a group dedicated to reducing rail-crossing accidents.

A train and vehicle collide every 90 minutes somewhere in the United States, and motorists who are in train crashes are 30 times more likely to be killed than drivers who are involved in crashes with other vehicles, according to Operation Lifesaver Inc., which collects statistics from every state but Hawaii.

Seven students were killed in a Chicago suburb Wednesday when a commuter train slammed into the rear of their school bus, which was held by a red light just past the crossing.

Investigators were focusing on a traffic signal system that should have automatically switched to green as the train approached, allowing the bus to proceed.

Operation Lifesaver Inc., based in Alexandria,

Va., found that more than 50 percent of rail-crossing accidents occur where active warning devices, such as gates, lights and bells, have been installed.

On Sunday, a train hit a pickup truck at a private crossing marked only by a stop sign in Lovelock, Nev., killing a family of four in the truck. The family lived nearby, reflecting a national statistic, said Kent Cooper, state coordinator of Nevada Operation Lifesaver.

"What we have found is that quite a few occur close to home, typically on crossings that you cross every day and are very familiar with," Cooper said. "It's like the adage that if you're in a collision, it will be within a couple of miles of your home."

There were 4,921 railroad crossing accidents last year with 610 deaths and 1,923 injuries, according to data collected by Operation Lifesaver and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Operation Lifesaver was established in 1972 by the Union Pacific Railroad and has 25,000 volunteers in 49 states. Before its inception, crossing fatalities averaged 1,200 a year. By 1981, the number had dropped to 728 and has continued to decline into this decade.

Prosecution convincing, union defense inconsistent

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — When deliberations began, only one juror expressed any doubt that six union members killed a police informant by dumping him in a two-story vat of wood pulp with a 50-pound weight tied to his neck.

And after 10 hours of reviewing notes and talking about the case, even the lone holdout had those doubts erased.

Late Saturday afternoon, the jury convicted the six men of participating in first-degree murder, which carries an automatic life sentence. Sentencing was scheduled for today.

Jurors said the prosecution's case — even though it was built on circumstantial evidence and lacked eyewitnesses — was so convincing that it left only one juror with lingering doubts.

"The more we talked about it, he started to see," juror Sharon Hechimovich, 29, said Sunday. "We didn't persuade him to vote guilty. I'm not saying that at all. We all made our own decision."

Hechimovich and juror Morris Sims, 36, said the notes of the one holdout weren't as thorough as most of the rest.

"There was some disagreeing," Hechimovich said. "We all went over our notes completely to make sure we all had the same thing."

The jurors, who were brought from an outside county because of local publicity about the case, also said they found too many inconsistencies in the defendants' stories.

The six men all denied any knowledge of how police informant Thomas Monfils' body wound up in the pulp vat at the James River Corp. nearly three years ago.

Convicted were Michael Hirn, 31, Reynold Moore, 48, Keith Kutska, 44, Michael Piskowski,

46, Dale Basten, 53, and Michael L. Johnson, 47.

As the judge read the verdicts, at least two women related to the defendants had to be removed — one for screaming obscenities.

"I didn't look at the crowd at all," Hechimovich said. "We went there to do our job and we

did our job. But still ... it was hard not to feel something for all the families out there."

Monfils, 35, suffocated in the vat Nov. 21, 1992, after co-workers branded him a snitch for allegedly informing police that

Kutska planned to steal electrical cord from the mill.

Howling about Halloween occurs in schools as more and more parents question holiday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Principal Fred Brown won't let his young students wear their Halloween costumes to school anymore.

"We were getting concerns from parents — satanic-type concerns," said the principal of Boyertown Elementary in Boyertown, Pa. "It was just easier getting rid of it."

When they celebrate fall on Tuesday with apple cider and pretzels, and nothing else, Brown's first-graders through sixth-graders will not be alone.

At many public schools, kids still parade down the halls each Halloween dressed as ghosts or Frankenstein, Pocahontas, pirates, skeletons, Ninja Turtles, gypsies or princesses.

But increasingly, school officials say, they are bowing to the concerns of parents who view Halloween as a bad holiday. No group keeps statistics on the matter, but Brown, the former head of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, says more of his colleagues are banning costumes and scary stories.

"Frankly, this is just not a battle a lot of principals are willing to

fight when there's so many more important things," Brown said.

Some parents get angry that a holiday of fun has become so controversial. Earlier this month, hundreds protested to the Los Altos, Calif., school board after its members prohibited six elementary schools from holding Halloween celebrations during school hours.

The board quickly changed its mind and allowed the schools to set their own policies. Board members had originally acted because of parents' concerns about satanic undercurrents.

"This is good, innocent fun for children," said Sandy Williams, one of the parents who came to Halloween's defense. "It's just horrible to put this slant on everything like that."

But conservative Christians are hardly the only parents who worry about Halloween. Many fear children wearing costumes can get hurt on the way to school. Others fear that gory costumes glorify violence, or that the focus on mischief encourages more serious pranks.

"There's a lot of churches and schools that look for something

positive to do as an alternative," said Caia Mockaitis, spokeswoman for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo.

But religious sensitivities are of particular importance to public schools, said Jay Butler, spokesman for the National School Boards Association.

"Halloween and the winter holidays are the big ones," Butler said. His group suggests that school boards, in part, pay attention to local community concerns and give parents options.

Even when the Los Altos district approved in-school Halloween celebrations, for example, it voted to let parents opt to keep their children out.

Brown, too, tried at first to compromise.

When concerns about cults and religious objections first started surfacing a few years ago in his region of rural eastern Pennsylvania, Brown mandated that youngsters could only dress up along particular themes — "they could be their favorite book character, or their favorite cereal or their favorite president," the principal says.

World briefs

Death toll rises as new storm threatens Philippines

BACOLOD, Philippines (AP) — The death toll from the just-departed Tropical Storm Zack rose to 117 today as newly formed Tropical Storm Angela moved toward the Philippines.

Zack destroyed hundreds of houses, roads and bridges, knocked out power supplies, sank boats and left flood waters 10 feet deep in some cities as it swept through the central Philippines over the weekend.

At least 75 people died in the province of Negros Occidental, 380 miles south of Manila, said regional police chief Jovencio Sales. Regional disaster officials said 20 people died in nearby Iloilo province, 17 in Cebu, three in Negros Oriental and two in Guimaras.

Zack was over the South China Sea today, 320 miles southwest of Manila, and moving west-northwest toward Vietnam at 12 mph. But Tropical Storm Angela, with winds of 65 mph, was 700 miles east of the Philippines, moving west at 4 mph.

Radio reports said at least 12 people were missing in Iloilo. DZMM radio also reported that the skipper and two other crew members were missing today from a ferry that sank Saturday, killing at least one crew member. The other 49 crew members were rescued.

Foreign trick-or-treaters horrify French

NOISY-LE-ROI, France (AP) — Trick or treat! It's almost Halloween — and the French are scared stiff.

The popular American holiday isn't on the calendar in France. But that hasn't stopped some transplanted Americans, Canadians and Britons from importing it — much to the horror of the French, who cherish their privacy and tend to shun strangers.

"It's bizarre," said Jean-Pierre Leclercq, a bus driver. "Little monsters! I don't want them in my garden."

On Tuesday night, scores of costumed children will go door to door in the leafy suburbs west of Paris where many foreigners set-

tle, seeking out the homes where porch lights and grinning jack-o'-lanterns signal fellow expatriates.

But kids are kids, and the excitement and lust for candy is strong enough to drive some to the darkened houses of French neighbors — creating a cross-cultural comedy that plays out every year.

A Frenchman, hearing an unexpected knock on the door, flings it open and stares down blankly at the small ghost, goblin, pirate or princess who has penetrated his hedged-in fortress and now stands on his doorstep.

"It is kind of a strange holiday when you think about it: You dress up and beg for candy," said Gina Starleaf, an American from Indianapolis organizing this year's expatriate trick-or-treating in Noisy-le-Roi, about 15 miles west of Paris.

"It's really funny," said Starleaf, who will lead about 100 children this year. "Last year, a French lady put out a pumpkin, but she didn't have any candy so she handed out cough drops — medicated adult cough drops."